

REMARKS

Claims 4-7 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by White or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over White in view of AIMS. Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over White and AIMS in view of Laurencin. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed in applicant's response dated April 29, 2004, White does not describe a shaped product formed from coral as claimed. White discloses a synthetic phosphate material, which can be prepared from a porous calcium carbonate material such as coral. In response to applicant's arguments, the Examiner asserts that the claims do not exclusively limit the product to unaltered coral and therefore still read on the White reference.

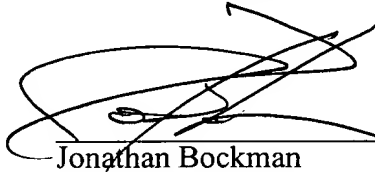
In the interest of expediting prosecution of this application, claim 4 has been amended to specify that the shaped product or structure is "shaped from natural coral skeletons of the *species Acropora grandis*." As previously described, White only discloses forming products from a synthetic phosphate material not natural coral skeletons. Since all of the pending rejections rely on White as disclosing the claimed shaped coral structure, the rejections of claims 4-11 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, early action allowing claims 4-13 is solicited. If there remain any formal impediments to allowance of this application, applicant requests the Examiner to discuss any such formal issues with his undersigned attorney by telephone.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 229752001000.

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Respectfully submitted,



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